

Annual Report of Accomplishment and Outcomes

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Occupational Health Surveillance Program

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Program Aims

1. Continue occupational health surveillance in the state
2. Expand occupational health surveillance in Wisconsin
3. Inform state residents about workplace illness, injury and death
4. Act as a safety and health resource for workers

Major Accomplishments & Outputs

Occupational Health Indicators

- Continued fundamental occupational health surveillance by doing data collection, rate calculation and trend analysis for 20 of the occupational health indicators (OHI). During the past year this was done using 2009 data. Wisconsin currently has OHI data available for the years 1999 through 2009 and uses these data for trend analysis.

Reports

- **Indicator summary report** that was shared with management, advisory group members, local health departments and placed on our webpage for the general public –
- Work has begun on the design of the 5-year indicator report and will be available on our webpage when completed.
- **Statewide strategic plan for occupational health and safety** is being worked on with our Advisory Committee, OSAAG. Because of limited meetings throughout the grant year, this is a work in progress. Partners include regional safety coalitions, unions, Workers' Compensation, OSHA, Consultation, and academic groups interested in worker and workplace safety.
- **Minority Health Report** for 2012 will include a chapter on workplace inequity written by OHS staff.

Publications

- Legislative Update on distracted driving – worked with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to summarize incidence of distracted driving accidents as well as compare commercial vehicle incidents with the general public. The report was used to support the updating of Wisconsin's MV 4000 crash forms used by safety officers. Staff are considering writing an additional paper for the Wisconsin Medical Journal.
- Safety cards - OHS staff worked with youth at Operation Fresh Start (OFS) to develop safety information cards that could be used as discussion tools on the way to the jobsiteNIOSH

- E-News article – article written on the development of safety posters developed by youth at OFS and their use at the annual State school-to-work conference.
- Occupational toolkit – developed for local public health departments. This toolkit consists of a box with safety factsheets, contact information, and helpful resources on workplace health and safety issues.

Press Releases

The only press release this year was as part of the Wisconsin Asthma Coalition Executive Committee. This press release was about the early onset of Spring asthma and allergy symptoms. The press release can be found at

<http://www.chawisconsin.org/documents/A2WACRelease3.12.pdf>

Presentations

- Occupational Safety Advisory and Action Group (OSAAG) - Power Point presentation using indicator data was developed and shared with advisory group members (OSAAG) and other partners.
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Department and Boards (WALHDAB) -When working on the occupational toolkit an overview of what the WI-OHS program and the OHS indicators was presented.

Workshops

- Farm Technology Days - Each year the program contributes to Wisconsin Farm Technology Days by supplying information about farm safety. Activities and swag are always a big hit. This past year we had a hearing safety poster at the DHS health education booth, staffed the 'wheel of safety' game (popular with kids) and gave away ear plugs.
- CSTE annual conference - Staff attended the annual CSTE conference including the Sunday occupational surveillance workshop

Conferences

- Wisconsin Builders Association conference was held in January of this year. The OHS program contributed a hearing conservation poster and ear plugs.
- OSHA Construction Breakfasts – staff attended the Madison OSHA office sponsored monthly 'construction breakfasts'. Lectures consist of OSHA inspectors, attorneys, insurance carriers and others.
- State-based surveillance grantees meeting held in December and the annual CSTE meeting in June were attended by WI OHS staff.

Databases

- Emergency Medical Services - Staff met with the EMS program to understand data elements collected and how our program could use these data.
- Department of Transportation – Access to MV4000 crash reports was granted
- University of Wisconsin Traffic Operations and Safety Lab (TOPS) and the Crash Outcomes Data Evaluation System (CODES) - OHS staff worked with these partners to develop a new commercial vehicle crash report.

- Workers' Compensation Data - Facilitated discussions with OSHA, the workers compensation insurance board and occupational health clinics to start development of sharing workers compensation information in a useful way.

Metals lab results – input results into the OHS program's metals database.

Other

- Interacted with Preparedness program to refine and edit the *CDC Responder Safety and Health survey*.
- Distributed NIOSH Hazard Alert and other educational material on exposure to silica during hydraulic fracturing to companies engaged in oil and gas mining as well as companies that supply sand for this process.

Outcomes

Short-term outcomes (change in skill, attitude, knowledge)

Most of the short-term outcomes of our program are an increase in knowledge. Some examples include:

- Increased partner awareness of the Occupational Surveillance Program through presentations.
- Increased public knowledge of occupational illness, injury and death in Wisconsin's workplaces through publications obtainable on the webpage. In the past year there were 13,169 visits to the Occupational Health Surveillance Program's webpage. Most visits were to the 'links' page, however visitors also downloaded brochures, fact sheets and annual reports.
- (Program creditability)Public phone contacts
- Keeping of ideas and potential stories

Intermediate outcomes (change in behavior, decision making)

- Thinking outside the box - Use and knowledge of other datasets such as DOT, EMS and insurance provider datasets
- Thinking outside the box – new collaborations such as WELCOA members
- New policy discussion – helped draft school bus idling statute verbiage
- Start youth thinking about safety – developed a safety program at Operation Fresh Start
- Business who may exposed workers to lead are monitored regularly by OSHA – developed report to monitor workplaces for lead

Long-term outcomes (change in status or life condition)

While Wisconsin continues to have around 100 deaths a year the number of reported injuries has continued to decline.

- Reduction in indicator rates – most indicators this year stayed the same as in previous years or continued the downward (improving) trend. However, one concern is the continuing slow increase from year to year in hospitalizations for asbestosis. We will continue to inform workers about the correct use of respirators.
- Increased safety culture - through our outreach activities we have encouraged discussion on workplace safety among workers and employers